

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /028 W

----- 040845

R 021433Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2644

INFO USDOC WASHDC

FAA WASHDC (AIA-230)

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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RIO DE JANEIRO FOR FAA IFO

E.O. VENEZUELA'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS, DR. LUIS E. VARGAS, CALLED EMBOFF TO INFORM HIM THAT THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HAS AUTHORIZED THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY PROCEDURES FOR SIGNING CONTRACTS, PRESELECTING SUPPLIERS AND ORGANIZING THE STAFFS REQUIRED FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE VARIOUS AVIAN SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLANS.

2. DR. VARGAS STATED THAT THE NAVAIDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH NORTHROP-WILCOX WILL DEFINITELY BE SIGNED AFTER DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS COST ITEMS. HE ADDED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMPANIES HAVING PRESENTED PROPOSALS FOR THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE CONTROL PROGRAM WILL BEGIN DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL AND EXPRESSED HOPES THAT ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE STARTED BY THE END OF THAT MONTH.

3. WHEN QUESTIONED FURTHER, DR. VARGAS STATED THAT ONLY U.S. MANUFACTURERS WILL BE CONSIDERED AS SUPPLIERS IN THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAM AND THAT IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME, THE MINISTRY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PURCHASES OR, FAILING THAT, FOR PRIVATE BIDDING AMONG COMPANIES TO BE SELECTED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL

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AERONAUTICS.

4. THIS INFORMATION AGREES WITH THAT PROVIDED BY MAJOR JORGE POCATERRA, INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATOR FOR THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE CONTROL PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO POCATERRA, DR. VICENTINI OF THE MAIQUETIA AIRPORT PROJECT IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL RADAR PURCHASES TRANSFERRED TO HIS ORGANIZATION, MAINLY BECAUSE HIS STAFF IS MORE COMPETENT IN THIS MATTER AND BECAUSE HE HAS AN ACTIVE FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT. POCATERRA APPARENTLY IS TO PUT IN CHARGE OF THE EXECUTION OF THE AIRSPACE CONTROL PROJECT AND ALSO INSISTS ON FAA ASSISTANCE FOR HIS OFFICE WITH THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS.

5. THE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH ICAO REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN SIGNED AND A TOTAL OF ELEVEN EXPERTS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SOON. ACCORDING TO POCATERRA, ICAO IS TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH TRAINING PROJECTS, ALTHOUGH ITS ROLE MIGHT BE WIDENED.

6. IT APPEARS THAT ALTHOUGH THE GO-AHEAD HAS BEEN GIVEN, THERE IS STILL CONFUSION NOT ONLY AS TO WHO OR WHICH OFFICE IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHICH PROJECTS, BUT ALSO AS TO TECHNICAL DETAILS AND SCOPE OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS THEMSELVES.

7. ONE OF THE RECENT CHANGES INVOLVES THE QUOTE IMMEDIATE UNQUOTE PURCHASE OF SEVERAL ASR TYPE RADARS FOR THE AIRPORTS OF BARQUISIMETO, BARCELONA AND MARGARITA ISLAND AND POSSIBLY ONE MORE FOR MAIQUETIA. THE EXISTING BRITISH PLESSEY RADAR WILL THEN BE TRANSFERRED TO PUERTO ORDAZ. DR. VICENTINI'S OFFICE HAS ORDERED MAJOR POCATERRA AND FAA ADVISOR JACKSON TO CONDUCT THE REQUIRED SITE STUDIES. VICENTINI INTENDS TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF THREE OR FOUR RADARS DIRECTLY WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME.

8. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER PROGRESS OR CHANGES AS THEY OCCUR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRSPACE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA03779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0187
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadmch.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAIR, VE, ICAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006